



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 2002

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed Injured		Estimated Damage Property Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--	--	---------------------------------------	--------------------

KENTUCKY, Northeast

KYZ101>103-105

Greenup - Carter - Boyd - Lawrence

19	0600EST			0	0			Unusually Cold
22	0800EST							

Early morning minimum temperatures were in the 30s for 4 consecutive days. Little damage was noted to agriculture. However, spring growth was slowed.

Carter County

**Grayson to
Williams Creek**

28	1825EST 1930EST			0	0	3K		Flash Flood
----	--------------------	--	--	---	---	----	--	--------------------

Roads were flooded and slightly damaged by small streams, but no dwellings were affected.

OHIO, Southeast

Perry County

Thornville

01	2355EST			0	0			Hail(1.00)
----	---------	--	--	---	---	--	--	-------------------

Perry County

**Glenford to
Somerset**

02	0005EST 0010EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
----	--------------------	--	--	---	---	----	--	--------------------------

Power lines, trees, and a few road signs were blown down.

Gallia County

**Adamsville to
.5 W Evergreen**

08	1707EST 1712EST	3	80	0	3	3.5M		Tornado (F2)
----	--------------------	---	----	---	---	------	--	---------------------

A warm frontal boundary interacted with a complex of showers and thunderstorms to form a tornado on the southern flank of the precipitation.

Touchdown was along Adamsville Road near Route 35. The roof was ripped off a home, 2 mobile homes were destroyed, along with a pole barn. The tornado then struck both rest areas on Route 35. The rest building on the north side of the highway was severely damaged. At least 2 tractor trailers were flipped over, while others parked in the lot, were damaged. Another mobile home near the rest stop was destroyed. Proceeding just east to Dewey Road, the tornado wiped a modular home off its foundation. A trailer was destroyed at the corner of Kerr and Viney Roads. Down Kerr Road, a home had its roof removed and a mobile home was moved off its foundation. On Fairview Road, another mobile home was damaged.

What was amazing and fortunate, in just about all the cases, no one was home when the tornado struck. Three people were injured at the rest stop.

Perry County

Somerset

12	1204EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
----	---------	--	--	---	---	----	--	--------------------------

Trees and large branches were blown down.

Morgan County

8 NE Stockport

12	1430EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
----	---------	--	--	---	---	--	--	-------------------

Washington County

10 W Marietta

12	1440EST			0	0			Hail(0.88)
----	---------	--	--	---	---	--	--	-------------------

Washington County

Devola

12	1450EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
----	---------	--	--	---	---	--	--	-------------------

**OHZ066>067-075>076-
083>087**

Perry - Morgan - Athens - Washington - Jackson - Vinton - Meigs - Gallia - Lawrence

19	0600EST			0	0			Unusually Cold
22	0800EST							

Early morning minimum temperatures were in the 30s for 4 consecutive days. Little damage was noted to agriculture. However, spring growth was slowed.

Athens County

Athens

31	1940EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
----	---------	--	--	---	---	----	--	--------------------------



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 2002

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OHIO, Southeast

Trees and large branches were blown down

Vinton County
1 N Creola

31	1950EST				0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
----	---------	--	--	--	---	---	----	--	--------------------------

Large tree branches were snapped off.

Meigs County
Rutland

31	2020EST				0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
----	---------	--	--	--	---	---	----	--	--------------------------

Fallen trees disrupted electrical service

Thunderstorms formed out ahead of a cold front. In addition to the isolated wind damage, a few spots got localized downpours. Carpenter of Meigs County measured 1.5 inches of rain in less than 30 minutes.

VIRGINIA, Northwest

Buchanan County
Grundy

02	1330EST				0	0			Hail(0.75)
----	---------	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	-------------------

Buchanan County
Rowe

02	1335EST				0	0			Hail(1.00)
----	---------	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	-------------------

Buchanan County
North Portion

02	1415EST				2	0	25M		Flash Flood
----	---------	--	--	--	---	---	-----	--	--------------------

03 0100EST
M37OU, M84OU

Dickenson County
1 W Clintwood

02	1738EST				0	0			Hail(1.00)
----	---------	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	-------------------

Repetitive showers and thunderstorms moved rapidly across northern Buchanan County from west to east from the late morning to the early evening. Hail fell from the thunderstorms in both Buchanan and Dickenson Counties, but the main problem was the severe flash flooding in the narrow valleys of northern Buchanan County. Rains of 2.5 to 5 inches fell in a 6 to 10 hour period. A cooperative observer at Hurley measured 4.5 inches of rain. On the state line with West Virginia, Paynesville measured 4.1 inches. Just south of the heaviest rain, Grundy had 2.3 inches. Automatic gauges at Home Creek measured 3.3 inches, while another at Big Rock had 3.5 inches.

The downpours turned small streams into raging rivers, powerful enough to tumble vehicles like bath tub toys. Mobile homes were washed away, steel bridge girders, as thick as railroad rails, were bent 90 degrees with the current. Severe flash flooding occurred along such streams as Knox and Slate Creeks. Communities such as Stacy, Wolford, Blackey, and Hurley were hit hard. Hurley is situated at the junction of Lester Fork and Knox Creek. The postmaster at Hurley said, "it was like the mountain just opened up, and water started to come out. All the businesses in Hurley are gone, houses are gone. They're just gutted." Water rose as high as 12 feet in some buildings. The post office at Hurley was destroyed. A county dispatcher said, "people were tying themselves to trees, they couldn't get helicopter assistance in, it was awful."

Around 100 homes were destroyed in Buchanan County, with 247 sustaining major damage. On the order of 125 private bridges were washed out. Numerous vehicles were destroyed. The electric and phone service were severed. Propane tanks broke loose in the flood waters.

A 37 year old man fell off a roof and was later found lying face down in the mud of a neighbor's driveway and carport. An 84 year old man went back to his mobile home one more time, to retrieve his belongings and drowned.

President Bush declared a federal disaster for both individual and public assistance, FEMA disaster 1411. The National Guard was activated and assisted by installing temporary bridges, then debris clearance. Over 6,000 tons of debris were removed by the National Guard. Hurley area schools were closed, then reopened on the 20th.

Severe flash flooding also swept through neighboring McDowell County in West Virginia.



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 2002

May 2002									
Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
<u>VIRGINIA, Northwest</u>									
Buchanan County									
1 W Grundy	13	0851EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
			Large tree limbs were blown down.						
VAZ003>004			Dickenson - Buchanan						
	19	0600EST			0	0			Unusually Cold
	22	0800EST							
			Early morning minimum temperatures were in the 30s for 4 consecutive days. Little damage was noted to agriculture. However, the growth of the spring vegetation was slowed.						
<u>WEST VIRGINIA, West</u>									
Raleigh County									
Coal City	02	0015EST			0	0			Hail(1.00)
Raleigh County									
Coal City	02	0020EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
			Trees were blown down along Lynwinn Road.						
Raleigh County									
Ghent	02	0025EST			0	1	20K		Thunderstorm Wind
			A north bound tracker trailer, with about 1000 pounds of cargo, hit a cross wind on the West Virginia Turnpike. The wind was associated with the same thunderstorm complex that moved through Coal City. The wind forced the truck off the left passing lane, and into the sloping medium. The truck overturned, slightly injuring the driver						
			After receiving reports of a possible tornado, the National Weather Service conducted a survey around Coal City, with the help of the local fire department. No evidence of a tornado was found, just a few fallen trees.						
Boone County									
Danville	02	1100EST			0	0			Hail(1.50)
Logan County									
Lorado	02	1107EST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind
			A report from the public stated structural damage occurred from the thunderstorm winds.						
Mingo County									
Delbarton	02	1115EST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind
			Power lines were knocked down by fallen trees. One tree fell onto a house.						
Mingo County									
Delbarton to Varney	02	1130EST 1830EST			0	0	300K		Flash Flood
			Small stream flooding occurred. Houses were flooded in the Varney vicinity, with roads closed around Delbarton. Williamson reported 2.7 inches of rain.						
Logan County									
Logan to Sarah Ann	02	1145EST 1830EST			0	0	250K		Flash Flood
			Areas in the headwaters of Island Creek received 2 to 3 inches of rain						
Mcdowell County									
Countywide	02 03	1430EST 0100EST			2	0	85M		Flash Flood
			F27VE, FIVE						
Mcdowell County									
Hensley	02	1505EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
WVZ024			Mingo						
	02 04	2300EST 0100EST			0	0	4M		Flood



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 2002

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed Injured	Estimated Damage Property Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	--------------------

WEST VIRGINIA, West

Repetitive showers and thunderstorms moved rapidly across the southern coal fields, from the late morning hours to the early evening, on a Thursday, the 2nd of May. A few reports of large hail and gusty winds were received, but the major problem was the severe flash flooding in McDowell County. The heaviest rains were on the order of 2.5 to 5 inches, in a west to east corridor from northern Buchanan County, Virginia through central McDowell County. As a result, many more streams in McDowell County were flooded, compared to the 8th of July in 2001. In 2001, the downpours hit only the eastern portion of the county. Cooperative observers in Elkhorn measured 5.1 inches of rain, Welch had 5.0 inches, Paynesville 4.1 inches, War 3.9 inches, and Iaeger 3.3 inches. Automatic rain gauges recorded 4.4 inches of rain just north of Coalwood, and 4.1 inches of rain at Olga Lookout, south of Roderfield. These amounts fell in a 6 to 10 hour time interval. The heaviest rain rates were on the order of 1.5 to 2 inches in an hour.

After escaping their flooded car, a 27 year old woman and her 14 month old daughter drowned. Their vehicle had been washed into Elkhorn Creek near Landgraft. The woman's body was found on the 3rd, a mile from the car, near Vivian. The child's body was found on the 4th, near Superior.

In these narrow valleys, where humans compete for space with the streams, houses, vehicles, and private bridges were washed away. Roads were heavily damaged. Residents around Avondale's Crane Creek and in the hollows around Coalwood were especially hard hit, both from the rising streams and from the water flowing off timbered hillsides. One eyewitness said, "water was blowing from the mountainsides like an uncapped fire hydrant."

President Bush declared McDowell County a federal disaster, FEMA disaster 1410. The flooding in McDowell County destroyed 197 homes, while 703 homes had major damage. These statistics were on the same order of magnitude as the flash flooding in July, 2001. McDowell County businesses saw 35 structures with major damage. Nearly 100 structures were eventually condemned. Numerous vehicles were also destroyed. Nine schools and five fire departments sustained damage. The school year for county children came to an abrupt end, over a month early. School damage was estimated at over 4 million dollars. About a dozen separate water systems were damaged and shut down.

The main stem of the Tug Fork flooded downtown Welch with 1 to 4 feet of water. The water rose from a stage of 6.7 feet around 1530E to 17.7 feet by 1715E. A record crest of 22.1 feet occurred during the evening of the 2nd, surpassing the 19.8 feet crest in July of 2001.

Indirect deaths also occurred in McDowell County. One tragic example, were the parents of a family left homeless after the flood in July, 2001. After the flood waters had receded, a tree loosened by the rains, fell off a hillside. The tree came crashing down on their vehicle. This occurred along Route 52 near Keystone. The mother and father were killed. The 3 children scrambled out of the sport utility vehicle with only minor injuries.

The surge of water from the upper Tug Fork Valley, including the Knox Creek drainage of Buchanan County Virginia, caused river flooding through Mingo County on the 3rd. The gates to the Williamson flood wall were closed. Williamson had a crest of 42.15 feet around 1300E on the 3rd. That was the highest stage since May, 1984 when the river reached near 45 feet. The flood of record at Williamson was 52.5 feet in April of 1977. The flood wall protected most of Williamson, but dwellings outside its protection were damaged. The river crested at Kermit at 43.1 feet around 0030E on the 4th. Flood stage at Kermit is 38 feet.

Mingo County was also included in the federal disaster declaration, with 85 homes destroyed and 44 homes with major damage. Seven businesses in Mingo County saw major damage..

In this disaster, nearly 700 National Guard troops were used for removal of debris. The American Red Cross served around 400,000 meals.

Calhoun County **Mt Zion to** **Arnoldsburg**

07	1030EST 1130EST	0	0	3K	Flash Flood
----	--------------------	---	---	----	-------------

Small streams and runs flooded and closed roads. No dwellings were affected.

Roane County **Billings to** **Triplet**

07	1030EST 1130EST	0	0	3K	Flash Flood
----	--------------------	---	---	----	-------------

Small streams flooded and closed roads. Water surrounded some homes near Spencer. Spencer reported 1.9 inches of rain.

Gilmer County **Shock to** **Perkins**

07	1045EST 1130EST	0	0	2K	Flash Flood
----	--------------------	---	---	----	-------------

Steer Creek flooded roads.



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 2002

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
<u>WEST VIRGINIA, West</u>									
Pocahontas County									
Bartow	07	1345EST 1500EST			0	0	1K		Flash Flood
Water flowed across Route 28 from overflowing streams and runs. Bartow reported 2.3 inches of rain.									
Webster County									
Countywide	07	1430EST 1830EST			0	0	5K		Flash Flood
Small streams flooded and closed roads. Hacker Valley had 2.4 inches of rain. Wester Springs measured 3.1 inches of rain. Campers were stranded along Williams River. Roads were closed by mudslides and debris									
Kanawha County									
Sissonville	07	1745EST 1900EST			0	0	2K		Flash Flood
Basement flooding was reported from overflowing small streams.									
Nicholas County									
Summersville to Craigsville	07	1800EST 2000EST			0	0	10K		Flash Flood
Numerous road closures due to small stream flooding. Birch River measured 2.9 inches of rain. Earlier in the day, around 1430E, a 20 year old woman and her 1 year old child drowned, after their vehicle drove off the road and into the Birch River. The road was not flooded, but the river was swollen to well above normal levels.									
Mason County									
Letart	08	1725EST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind
A garage was damaged.									
Calhoun County									
1 E Five Forks	08	1910EST			0	0			Hail(1.00)
Gilmer County									
1 E Letter Gap	08	1930EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
Braxton County									
Burnsville	08	1955EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
Logan County									
Neibert	13	0845EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
Large trees were knocked down.									
Wyoming County									
Cyclone	13	0900EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
Trees were blown down along Route 10 and Huff Mountain.									
Mcdowell County									
Big Sandy	13	0910EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
Large tree branches were blown down.									
Raleigh County									
Glen Daniel	13	0916EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
Several trees were blown down.									
Fayette County									
Thurmond	13	0925EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
Raleigh County									
Beckley to Grandview	13	0925EST 0928EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
Scattered locations had large tree branches blown down.									



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 2002

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

WEST VIRGINIA, West

WVZ026

Boone

13	1430EST 1700EST	0	0	10K	Wind
----	--------------------	---	---	-----	------

A cold front and associated brief showers, whipped across West Virginia during the late afternoon. No thunder was heard. Wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph were felt. Trees were knocked down along Lick Creek near Ashford. Trees were also fallen along Tony Creek around Bloomingrose.

WVZ005>011-013>020-
024>040-046>047

Wayne - Cabell - Mason - Jackson - Wood - Pleasants - Tyler - Lincoln - Putnam - Kanawha - Roane - Wirt - Calhoun - Ritchie - Doddridge - Mingo - Logan - Boone - Clay - Braxton - Gilmer - Lewis - Harrison - Taylor - McDowell - Wyoming - Raleigh - Fayette - Nicholas - Webster - Upshur - Barbour - Pocahontas - Randolph

19	0600EST	0	0	Unusually Cold
22	0800EST			

Record low temperatures were set at several locations for 4 consecutive days. Dawn readings were in the 20s and 30s. Gladys was 21 degrees on the 22nd. Little damage to agriculture was noted. However, the growth of the spring vegetation was slowed.

Fayette County

Fayetteville

26	1629EST	0	0	Hail(0.75)
----	---------	---	---	------------

Jackson County

Ravenswood

28	1527EST	0	0	Hail(0.75)
----	---------	---	---	------------